

service. The forty-plus years of service the Arie family has provided in owning, operating, and developing Fun Spot Attractions is a true testament to the significant importance of small businesses.

This is not the first time that Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando has been recognized for their commitment to excellence in the tourism industry across Central Florida. Fun Spot has been chosen and honored two prior times by the IAAPA for their standards of excellence in promoting and advertising the family entertainment center industry.

The efforts of Mr. Arie and his family to serve the Central Florida community are to be commended. It is not often that such a strong commitment to service is found within one family. I wish them great success as they have the opportunity to undergo a 10-acre expansion that will triple the size of the Orlando Fun Spot Action Park.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Arie and his family for their hard work, dedication, and leadership on this well-deserved award. May their investment to community and small business inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

**DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL
OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as negotiations to avoid the "fiscal cliff" enter the final stages, it is important that we keep in mind the potentially devastating consequences of across-the-board cuts. This is true not only for domestic programs, but also for foreign assistance, which represents less than one percent of the federal budget and is one of the most cost-effective ways of protecting our interests across the globe. Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely.

In this regard, I commend to my colleagues an excellent op-ed by Sharon Waxman, vice-president of the International Rescue Committee. Her article in *The Hill*, "Don't Let Foreign Aid Fall off the Fiscal Cliff," outlines the importance of foreign aid in saving lives and easing suffering for millions around the world.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON OF THE WYOMISSING
SPARTANS HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM**

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School football team of Berks County, Pennsylvania on their undefeated season and on capturing the PIAA District III AA State Championship.

The Wyomissing Spartans set a Berks County record for points scored and wins in a season, finishing with a perfect 16–0 record. The Spartans are the first team in Berks County history to win a state title in football at any level.

The Spartans' championship roster includes: Gerald Burns, Thomas Paolini, Corey Unger, Spenser Lloyd, Sean Smith, Joseph Cacchione, Scott Kuczala, Brian Walters, Rahul Kalani, Adam Chaffe, Caleb Naylor, Juche Jackson, Bern Donahue, Chase Hartman, Alex Anzalone, Brandon Faust, Eric Waxler, Brandon Gonzalez, Mason Smith, Scott McAvoy, Justin Causa, Jonah Bowman, Sam Debell-Mitton, Peter Geyer, Josh Naylor, Jack Baker, Sam Weaver, Peter Bonino, Josh Pappas, Shane Hasenauer, Connor Reedy, Chris Eaton, Jeremy Bell, Will Kroppe, Anthony Colon, Jeriko Reyes, Cody Cox, Ben Wertz, Sean Reusing, Logan Jones, Dan Sweitzer, Wyatt Metzger, Finnegan Daly, Brian Bamberger, Jon Olmeda, Sean Clark, Nate Hain, Jack Wertz, Liam Reedy, and Daniel Faust.

The champion Spartans were coached by Head Coach Bob Wolfrum and Assistant Coaches Tom Baldwin, Andrew Siggins, Al Silveri, Todd Zechman, Steve O'Neil, Richard Hoffmaster, Nick Wojciechowski, Frank Ferrandino, Bill Hartman, Steve Brunner, Chris Blickley, Corbett Babb, Ty Smith, and Jim Delp. In addition, the School District's Athletic Director is Corbin Stoltzfus.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments, undefeated season, and state championship victory, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and staff of the Wyomissing Spartans High School Football Team of Berks County, Pennsylvania for their incredible and unforgettable season.

HONORING BARRY RUTENBERG

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Barry Rutenberg, from Gainesville, Fla. Barry is the 2012 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and has been deeply involved in helping housing—and his fellow builders—get back on course.

After suffering the worst housing downturn since the Great Depression, Barry's steady leadership at NAHB during the past year has paid great dividends as he has presided over a solid recovery for the industry. Housing starts and single-family sales are projected to jump 20 percent for the year, and the number of improving housing markets has soared from just 12 in September of 2011 to more than 200 in December of 2012. Meanwhile, home prices have stabilized across much of the Nation, helping to put more workers on the job and making housing a net contributor to economic growth.

As chairman of NAHB, Barry has provided a laser-like focus to help get housing back on track by working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get pro-housing bills introduced and passed. NAHB played a pivotal role in re-

authorizing and preserving the National Flood Insurance Program for an additional five years. This put to an end the many short-term lapses the program has endured in recent years—along with the delays and canceled home sales those lapses have caused home buyers and home builders.

Under Barry's direction, NAHB instituted a nationwide Protect Homeownership campaign that featured several rallies in key political swing states during this past election season. This effort to elevate housing on the national agenda sent a powerful message to the electorate that Americans value homeownership and Congress must support pro-housing policies that will create jobs and help local communities to flourish.

In normal times housing accounts for more than 17 percent of the Nation's total economic output. Building 100 single-family homes creates more than 300 full-time jobs and generates millions of dollars of tax revenues which increase the property tax base that supports local schools, police and firefighters across the land.

To help housing return to its position as an engine of economic growth, Barry instituted an aggressive agenda at NAHB. He made it a priority to help protect housing tax incentives that are vital to renters and home buyers; prevent expensive, pointless regulations from impeding home building and dampening the recovery; and to push for a balanced solution to overhaul the Nation's housing finance system that retains a federal backstop in the event of a catastrophic situation while providing a stable, affordable supply of credit for home buyers and limiting taxpayer exposure.

He also maintained a regular presence on Capitol Hill, meeting with lawmakers and testifying on behalf of the Nation's home builders on how small businesses and consumers would benefit from smarter and more sensible regulation.

I commend the efforts of Barry Rutenberg and NAHB to ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable to America's families and an important national priority.

**HARRIS COUNTY VETERAN'S
COURT PROGRAM**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the United States of America entered the War on Terror, many things have changed with what our troops encounter overseas. Our soldiers are not only fighting a war where guerrilla tactics, suicide bombings, and targeted killings are used, but they are fighting over values and morals versus territory. This war has not been in one specific country, but takes place wherever our enemies are attacking or hiding.

A lot has changed in this modern day war, but thankfully a lot has changed with how we help our troops when they return home. 2.4 million Americans have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Department of Veterans Affairs have diagnosed roughly 200,000 of those Americans with post-traumatic stress disorder with many more that have gone undiagnosed. Many of these men have come home and are still fighting internal demons from these perilous places that they have returned from.